

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

27 October 2000

ITEM: 20

SUBJECT: **Executive Officer's Report**

DISCUSSION:

City of Arvin WWTF Spills Effluent and Sludge Mixture to Facility Grounds

On 18 September the City of Arvin WWTF experienced a mechanical failure. An effluent pump failed causing more than 170,000 gallons of digested sludge and effluent to overflow. A new pump installed on 28 August had not been wired into the alarm system. The spill was contained within the WWTF grounds from where it was returned to the WWTF or infiltrated the soil. The faulty pump has been taken offline until it can be repaired and wired. Staff will issue a Notice of Violation.

Lemoore and SK Foods Cause Fish Kill in the Westlake Canal, Kings County

During an 8 September inspection staff witnessed a fish kill in the Westlake Canal caused by low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels. The low DO levels can be attributed to the high BOD loading rates associated with Lemoore's WWTF and SK Foods' (a tomato processor) combined discharges to the canal. The SK Foods discharge ceased 23 September. Enforcement is under consideration. (JDR)

Executive Officer Issues Cleanup And Abatement Order To Stop Irrigation Of Delta College Landscape With Fuel Contaminated Water - Stockton, San Joaquin County

On 8 September, the Executive Officer issued a C&A Order to Montgomery Wards and Unocal. Both parties had operated gasoline service stations adjacent to Delta College in Stockton. Groundwater pollution from leaking underground storage tanks at both sites commingled in a plume and was intercepted by the Delta College irrigation well. The irrigation well is upgradient from the leaking tanks, but the irrigation well caused a local

reversal of the groundwater gradient. Regional Board and County staff became aware of the problem when campus staff and students noticed a distinctive fuel odor from the irrigation water. The Cleanup and Abatement Order requires Montgomery Wards and Unocal to define the extent of the plume, submit a remediation plan and provide an alternate water supply for Delta College. In response to the C&A, the irrigation well has been shut down and Delta College is currently using City of Stockton water for irrigation. (MH)

Senate and Assembly Committees Hold Dairy Meeting

A joint meeting of the Senate Agricultural and Water Committee and Assembly Committee on Agriculture was held in Hanford on 12 September. The committees called on representatives to discuss “Issues Surrounding the Siting of Dairies: Requirements, Process, Community Impacts, and Environmental and Economic Concerns”. There were representatives from the U.S. EPA; California Air Resources Control Board; State Attorney General’s office; local government; The Center for Race, Poverty, and the Environment; Sierra Club; a local Kern County neighborhood group; industry representatives; and Board member Charles Ahlem and staff engineer Lonnie Wass.

Mr. Wass provided a historical overview of the development of the nearly 30-year old regulations and changes that have occurred in the industry in the last 30 years. He further summarized the additions of new staff, and explained that highest priority will continue to be enforcement of egregious violators through use of Cal EPA’s interagency dairy enforcement task forces. Also, that staff will be: continuing its cooperation with the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program, developing a complete list of all dairies and their locations, reviewing and responding to CEQA documents prepared by the counties, and reviewing Reports of Waste Discharge for compliance with the existing regulations. Mr. Wass explained that the new dairy staff is not sufficient to run a regulatory program similar to the regulatory programs of other dischargers. Recent changes to the Water Code, however, require the boards to review all waivers. Mr. Wass explained that most counties still do not require use permits for dairies and the Board will be the lead CEQA agency when it undertakes this review.

Mr. Ahlem explained the new California Dairy Quality Assurance Program.

The committee members indicated the hearings would likely continue in the future

City of Riverbank Pond Failure

The City of Riverbank operates a POTW on the north bank of the Stanislaus River in Stanislaus County. On 28 August 2000, a percolation pond berm failed, releasing approximately 21 million gallons of treated (but undisinfected) effluent to two privately owned orchards and a tailwater drainage slough that discharges to the river two miles from the point of release. The cause of the spill is believed to be a piping failure precipitated by burrowing rodents. Although the City responded quickly when its operators saw the initial seepage, the pond berm still collapsed. The neighboring property owners were notified and the City obtained samples of standing water in the orchard and the drainage slough. The majority of the spilled effluent percolated into the ground within 48 hours. The slough is poorly maintained and it is possible that very little of the effluent reached the river. Analytical results and enforcement action are pending. (ALO)

Byron Sanitary District's Pond Seepage Leads to Surface Water Discharge

Byron Sanitary District operates a small POTW south of Byron in Contra Costa County. The plant needs substantial corrective maintenance and the recently updated WDRs require the Discharger to comply with a timeline for completion of engineering and water quality studies. One of the problems identified by Board staff was poor construction and maintenance of the effluent storage ponds and potential seepage from the ponds into neighboring wetlands. On 1 September 2000, the Discharger observed that the water level in an adjacent drainage ditch was rising, but thought it was due to irrigation runoff. By 5 September, it was apparent the rising water level was caused by seepage from one of four effluent storage ponds. The Discharger began attempting to stop the seepage at that time. The problem was reported to Board staff on 6 September 2000. Board staff was concerned that the entire pond berm could fail, and required the Discharger to immediately retain an engineer to evaluate the problem and provide recommendations for emergency repairs. Board staff also notified OES and local agencies of a potential release to surface waters that could impact the downstream recreational area in Discovery Bay as well as Contra Costa Water District's municipal water supplies. Emergency repairs were completed, and the seepage has reportedly slowed to a minimal equilibrium rate. The consulting engineer states that the berm is probably stable for the short term provided that the water level in the pond is kept relatively low. The quantity released to surface waters is unknown, but is estimated to be on the order of 10,000 gallons total. An enforcement action is pending. (ALO)

Continuing Discharges from Safari Mobile Home Park

Safari Mobile Home Park is in Calaveras County, and contains about 35 occupied sites. Wastewater is pumped from a septic tank to a leachfield. In 1989, staff found that sewage effluent was surfacing from the leachfield, and the Board adopted a C&A directing Safari's owners to employ whatever means were necessary to comply with its WDRs and prevent surfacing. But the improvements were not been made, sewage continued to surface, and in 1995, the Board adopted a C&D. The C&D again directed Safari's owners to prevent surfacing effluent by whatever means necessary, including trucking waste to a wastewater treatment and disposal facility. However, the required improvements have still not been made, and during the winter and spring, sewage continues to surface from the leachfield and flow into a nearby creek. In 1999, Calaveras County filed suit against Safari MHP and its owner in an attempt to correct the situation. Michael Schneider assumed ownership of Safari MHP in March 2000, and has reached agreement with the Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) to hook up Safari's septic tank to CCWD's nearby collection system. In the last month, legal problems with documents filed for the connection to CCWD's system occurred. Both Mr. Schneider and CCWD indicate these problems have been resolved, and that work should begin shortly on the connection. Mr. Schneider has been informed that if this connection is not made or if the leachfield surfaces again this winter, then staff will recommend that an ACL be issued. (MRB/DLM)

Storage Capacity Analysis, Copper Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant, Calaveras County

The Calaveras County Water District's (CCWD) Copper Cove WWTP has a long history of inadequate storage capacity, resulting in discharges of wastewater to surface waters. CCWD's plan for coming into compliance involves constructing a tertiary treatment plant and disposing of wastewater at a nearby golf course. An NPDES permit for this proposed discharge is scheduled for the October 2000 Board meeting. Staff still have concerns that there will not be enough storage capacity even with the discharge to the golf course, so the recently updated WDRs required CCWD to submit a wastewater disposal operations plan and comprehensive water balance analysis. CCWD's original submittal was incomplete and contradictory, so CCWD was directed to resubmit the reports pursuant to Water Code section 13267. Staff reviewed the re-submittal, and although the comprehensive water balance analysis was more thorough, several assumptions were unrealistic. However, after staff obtained additional information and apply more realistic assumptions, staff determined that a minimum of 288 acre-feet of storage capacity is needed to contain all wastewater and inflow/infiltration associated with storms with a 100-year return period. This exceeds Copper Cove's current storage

capacity by approximately 50 acre-feet. However, CCWD's analysis, as well as staff's analysis, assumed the only disposal option would be to the neighboring golf course and did not include in the analysis continued spray irrigation disposal on CCWD property during the winter months. As a result of the analysis and as required by the tentative NPDES permit, CCWD will be required to continue spray irrigation disposal on their property during exceptionally wet winters. (DLM)

Aerial Inspection Finds Runoff from Sprayfields

Treated domestic wastewater is commonly discharged to land through the use of sprayfields. Non15 staff recently conducted an aerial inspection of 11 sprayfields in Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties. We were concerned about these sites since the sprayfields are in rolling hills and most do not have tailwater return systems. We found that seven of the 11 sites appear to have off-site discharges of wastewater to surface waters. Staff will follow-up through field inspections and then will work with the Dischargers to modify their irrigation practices. (WSW)

Effluent Violations at Sutter Creek May Be Due to Acceptance of Septage Waste

The City of Sutter Creek in Amador County discharges effluent to unlined storage reservoirs; the wastewater is then used for landscape irrigation at Castle Oaks Golf Course and Preston School of Industry. Sutter Creek's self-monitoring reports show that it has exceeded its effluent limitations for BOD, total suspended solids, and total coliform organisms from October 1999 through June 2000. Staff recently learned that the City has been accepting waste from the Buena Vista Landfill Class II leachate/septage pond. The City was recently issued a NOV and told to stop accepting wastes that are not authorized under its WDRs.

Buena Vista Landfill utilizes the Class II pond for leachate and septage from septic tank cleaning, and is the only active septic tank waste site for Amador and Calaveras Counties. Buena Vista has submitted a RWD to use spray field irrigation at the landfill for disposal of the Class II pond waste. However, until Buena Vista has adequately characterizes its waste, staff cannot determine whether land application is an acceptable disposal method. In the mean time, the Class II pond is reaching capacity, and Buena Vista is looking for another WWTP to take the waste. (ASB)

Discharge to Surface Watercourses at Lake Camanche Village, Amador County

The Lake Camanche Village wastewater treatment plant is operated by the County of

Amador and disposes of effluent to a spray irrigation field. An NOV was issued on 22 August 2000 after a site inspection observed effluent discharge to a surface watercourse that is a tributary of Lake Camanche. The inspection also found that the County of Amador violated the WDRs by not posting signs alerting the public to reclaimed water, not managing tailwater runoff, and had standing water, from saturated the soils, in the spray field. Staff also observed that the collection systems lift stations did not have sufficient alarm systems capable of notifying operational personnel in the event of the loss of control of wastes. Staff recommended that the County upgrade the lift stations with the appropriate alarm systems. On 4 September, before any upgrades were made, Lake Camanche Village lift station “C” overflowed into the unnamed drainage course that is tributary to Lake Camanche. A second NOV was subsequently issued. (ASB)

Hatler Industrial Park has Failed to Pay its \$10,000 ACL

On 16 June 2000, the Board issued a \$10,000 ACL to Sidney H. Hatler, Stewart E. Hatler, Vernon P. Hatler, and Richard D. Young for failure to submit a completed RWD for their existing industrial waste disposal facility. Hatler petitioned the ACL to the State Board on 17 July 2000. On 25 August 2000, the State Board dismissed the petition because the Hatlers failed to raise any substantial issues. The Hatlers were then notified that they had thirty days in which to pay the ACL; however, the payment has not been received to date. Staff are working with the Office of the Chief Council to prepare a judgment to collect. (JRM)

Expanded Water Quality and Habitat Monitoring in the San Joaquin River Basin

Beginning October 2000 and extending until June 2001, the current agricultural drainage monitoring program in the San Joaquin River Basin that focuses on salt, selenium and boron, is being expanded to review additional trace elements, minerals, pesticides and toxicity from sub-watersheds entering the San Joaquin River as well as sediment and habitat characteristics of agriculturally dominated water bodies. Funding for the expansion has been provided through the Statewide Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). Data collected during this first year will provide a baseline to measure anticipated improvements from installation of management measures to control nonpoint source pollution and will also indicate areas of potential concern in order to focus future regulatory efforts. (JEC)

TSI Attempts In-Situ Biodegradation for Nitrogen

A catastrophic failure of a fertilizer tank in February 1999 left nitrate concentrations of

200 ppm and ammonium concentrations of 3,000 ppm in the upper foot of soil in the alfalfa field adjacent to the TSI site. TSI implemented an in-situ biodegradation project to stimulate denitrifying activity that would convert ammonium and nitrate to nitrogen gas. The in-situ biodegradation consisted of a sugar application, and alternating moist and dry conditions. Ideally, moist conditions would prevail for 10 days, followed by dry conditions for 10 days, and the cycle repeated. Weather, however, did not always follow this alternating wet and dry pattern. Between mid February and early May 2000, TSI's consultant conducted two wet cycles with a sugar application with an intervening dry cycle. The overall results suggested very little net change in nitrogen concentrations, and the project was terminated. Crop uptake is the next remedial strategy being attempted.

According to Dr. Roland Meyer, a UC Cooperative Extension specialist, the predominant cause of the failure of the biodegradation project was probably related to the high ammonium concentration. This concentration may have been toxic to the denitrifying bacteria, and also may have inhibited water saturation. The high ionic activity of the ammonium induces molecular hydration, which limits the water available for microbiological function. The hydrated ammonium also increases the water required to saturate the soils. A bench test would have been desirable for this type of treatment technology before implementing a field trial. (AST)

Addenda that follow:

1. Personnel and Administration
2. [Public Outreach](#)
3. [Site Cleanup Activities](#)
4. Completed Site Cleanups
5. Report of Violations

Addendum 1

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Fresno Golf Tournament

The teams for the two offices were as follows:

<u>Fresno</u>	<u>Sacramento</u>
Russell Walls	Jerry Bruns
John Noonan	Gary Carlton
Terry Fox	Tom Pinkos
Doug Patteson	Richard Loncarovich
Cliff Raley	Jim Eckman

The best-ball results were that Sacramento beat Fresno by 2 holes. Congratulations to the Sacramento office. We can't wait until our rematch next year.

Addendum 2

PUBLIC OUTREACH

On 16 August and 14 September, Betty Yee attended the steering committee meetings of the Panoche/Silver Creek CRMP to determine the status of ongoing projects and to promote the latest grant offerings from the State Board.

On 19 August, Kim Schwab attended the “Rough and Ready Island Transfer Ceremony” where the Port of Stockton was celebrating the recent transfer of property from the U.S. Navy. This was the Phase I, Lease and Furtherance of Conveyance of property for the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NCTS, Stockton). Other attendees included staff from DTSC, as well as James F. Spagnole, Assistant Secretary for Military Base Remediation and Reuse, CalEPA, who gave a short presentation on the ongoing cleanup of the facility.

On 24 August, Jeanne Chilcott and Phil Crader participated in the Data Collection and Reporting Team meeting held by the US Bureau of Reclamation as part of the ongoing review of the Grassland Bypass Project and discussion of the Water Year 1999 Annual Report. Other agencies represented included US EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, California Department of Fish and Game, Grassland Area Farmers, and Block Environmental.

On 27 August, Jo Anne Kipps attended a meeting of the Orange Cove City Council and discussed possible treatment and disposal alternatives for the City's municipal WWTF,

which currently provides tertiary treatment and disinfection for reuse on nearby orange orchards. The City has been experiencing difficulties maintaining compliance with its WDRs due to violations of effluent limitations and to the City's inability to retain qualified operators. Among the alternatives discussed was modifying the WWTF to provide secondary treatment for reuse on City-owned property via irrigation of fodder crops.

On 28 August, Kelly Briggs and Michelle McGraw participated in the meeting of the Agricultural Practices Workgroup, a subgroup of the OP Pesticide Focus Group Subcommittee of the Sacramento River Watershed Program.

On 28 and 29 August, Kelly Briggs, Michelle McGraw, Robert Holes and Val Connor participated in the OP Pesticide Focus Group Subcommittee of the Sacramento River Watershed Program.

On 30 August, Betty Yee met with the Central Sierra Watershed Committee and the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Area Steering Committee to work on a long-range plan for the watershed within Mariposa County and eastern Madera County and assess activities within Mariposa County, and eastern Madera, Fresno, and Tulare counties.

On 30 August, Lori Webber and Val Connor met with staff from Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to discuss ongoing watershed projects that the RCD is coordinating for the Sacramento River Watershed Program.

On 31 August, Rik Rasmussen attended a meeting of the Calaveras River Watershed Stakeholders Group. The group is in the process of preparing a watershed management plan for the Calaveras River.

On 6 September, Jeanne Chilcott participated in the Grassland Bypass Project Phase II planning meeting held by the Grassland Area Farmers to discuss a new Use Agreement and the required EIR/EIS necessary to continue the project. Meeting participants included US EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Defense, Contra Costa Water District and Contra Costa County.

On 8 September, Val Connor and Rik Rasmussen met with staff from Department of

Health Services, U.S. EPA, Sacramento Regional Sanitation District, and California Urban Water Users Association to discuss proposed monitoring study to support the development of sources of drinking water policy.

On 11 September, Val Connor and Michelle McGraw met with staff from the Sacramento Regional Sanitation District and the Department of Pesticide Regulation to discuss the development of the OP Pesticide Focus Group's Management Plan and to discuss responsibilities for completing the work products on time.

On 12 September, Val Connor and Karen Larsen attended a Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP) Toxicity Focus Group meeting. The group discussed devising a CalFed strategy for addressing unknown toxicity in the Sacramento River and the Delta.

On 13 September, Lori Webber and Rik Rasmussen attended a conference on the Endangered Species Act sponsored by U.C. Davis Extension.

On 15 September, Michelle McGraw held a teleconference with members of the Sacramento River Watershed Program's OP Pesticide Focus Group to plan the following Op Pesticide Focus Group meeting.

On 19 September, Val Connor and Karen Larsen attended the SRWP Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee meeting. The group discussed contents of future issues of the SRWP Waterways newsletter, listened to one of the outreach presentations being developed by the SRWP Organophosphorous Pesticide (OP) Focus Group, and approved continuing the Resource Center contract with CSU Chico.

On 22 September 2000, Harley Davis attended the Grasslands Basin Drainage Steering Committee meeting in Los Banos. The Grassland Bypass Project, an in-valley salt disposal project, negotiations regarding continued use of the San Luis Drain, selenium loads and targets, and other topics were discussed.

On 25 September, Rik Rasmussen, Lori Webber, Val Connor, and Ken Landau presented a public workshop on Effluent Dominated Water Bodies.

On 26 September, Lori Webber, Rik Rasmussen, Val Connor and Jerry Bruns met with staff from National Marine Fisheries Services, EID, SWRI (EID's consultant) and a member of the public to discuss possible temperature regimes to protect Steelhead in

Deer Creek

On 26 September Kelly Briggs, Val Connor, Joe Karkoski and Robert Holmes participated in a Sacramento River Watershed Program OP Pesticide Focus Group meeting. Information was presented on potential funding sources for work the group wants to promote. Parry Klassen presented the joint SRWP/CURES presentation that he will start giving at grower meetings this October. The group discussed progress on the management practices review, implementation plan components and other aspects of the OP Pesticide Management Plan for the Sacramento and Feather Rivers. The group also started planning for a public workshop (that could be sponsored by the SRWP and SETAC) on targets that they would like to invite Regional Board members to attend.

On 27 September, Rik Rasmussen, Val Connor, Lori Webber and Karen Larsen attended a meeting of the Toxics Subcommittee of the Sacramento River Watershed Program. The group was updated on the activities of the Delta Tributaries Mercury Council and the OP Focus Group. In addition, participants gave updates on the CalFed fish and algae toxicity study and the drinking water workgroup.

On 28 September 2000, Jeanne Chilcott participated in the Grassland Bypass Project Phase II planning meeting held by the Grassland Area Farmers to discuss a new Use Agreement and the required EIR/EIS necessary to continue the project. Meeting participants included US EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Defense, and Contra Costa Water Agency.

On 28 September, Val Connor, Kelly Briggs, Rik Rasmussen, Michelle McGraw, Lori Webber, Karen Larsen and Robert Holmes attended a CEQA workshop sponsored by the UC Davis University Extension.

On 2 October 2000, Jeanne Chilcott and Phil Crader participated in a subcommittee meeting of the Grassland Bypass Project Data Collection and Reporting Team to discuss potential future toxicity monitoring should the project continue past September 2001. Other agencies represented included US EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, and Block Environmental.

On 3 October through 5 October, Rik Rasmussen, Val Connor, Lori Webber, Karen Larsen, Michelle McGraw, Robert Holmes and Kelly Briggs attended the CalFed Science

Conference in Sacramento. Val Connor chaired the sessions on contaminants.

On 6 October, Rik Rasmussen attended a meeting of the CalFed drinking water constituent's workgroup. The group discussed the content of a possible request for proposals for drinking water projects.

On 15 September 2000, Jeanne Chilcott and Phil Crader participated in the Grassland Bypass Project Data Collection and Reporting Team meeting held by the US Bureau of Reclamation to discuss a potential revision of the current monitoring program should the project continue past September 2001. Other agencies represented included US EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, California Department of Fish and Game, Grassland Area Farmers, and Block Environmental.

Addendum 3

SITE CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

Port of Sacramento Completes its Remedial Investigation

The Port of Sacramento has completed its remedial investigation defining the lateral and vertical extent of nitrate and ammonium contamination at its West Sacramento facility. Poor materials handling practices resulted in nitrate and ammonium in soils near product transfer points and wash stations. These constituents migrated vertically and contaminated groundwater, which threatens the Turning Basin of the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel. The Port has submitted a Feasibility Study outline that identifies a permeable reactive barrier, enhanced in-situ bio-denitrification, or groundwater extraction with discharge to managed wetlands as possible remedial strategies. (AST)

Former Mather Air Force Base, Mather Soils Bioremediation Facility

The Air Force operated a lined system with leachate collection for bio-treatment of hydrocarbon-contaminated soils in a Class II Waste Pile unit located within the larger Mather Soils Management Area of the facility. The Closure Report documents recent closure activities completed on 30 June 2000. Operation began in 1995. Soils contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, and semi-volatile organic compounds were remediated at this bio-cell facility. Design,

construction, operation, monitoring and closure of the unit is regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. 95-221. The recent closure met the requirements. Staff intends to rescind WDR Order No. 95-221 to complete the closure process. The Air Force will conduct further investigation to assess soil contamination that remains in place in areas beneath the excavated drainage layer material, and the former liner, as part of completing the remedial action for Site 56. Samples analyzed to characterize leachate during operation of the bio-cell and the vertical profile of soil contaminants indicates the remaining soil contamination was not a result of bio-cell activities. (KAB)

Former Mather Air Force Base, Building 13025 BX Mini-Mart

Removal of three 10,000-gallon underground storage tanks (USTs) and soil investigations were conducted during March and April 1999. The results of fourteen confirmatory soil samples indicated trace levels of TPH-g and BTEX, all below respective cleanup levels. Further excavation remedial activities were conducted based on concentrations of ETBE (maximum of 0.060 mg/kg) and MTBE (maximum of 1.1 mg/kg) detected in soil. A summary of soil and groundwater sampling results presented in the Closure Report, dated 8 June 2000 shows that groundwater was not impacted and soil cleanup levels were achieved. This site no longer poses a threat to the beneficial uses of groundwater. (KAB)

Beale Air Force Base, Site 7, Former Biological Production Facility

Board staff concurred with the closure of a former Biological Production Facility at Beale AFB. Site 7 was a former biological research facility that was used for the production of Stem Rust of Wheat (stem rust spores). The process also involved the use of volatile organic constituents. All production stocks were destroyed between 1969 and 1971 by incineration and carboxide treatment. Surface soil sampling was conducted to determine the presence of biological agents. Soil gas sampling was also conducted to determine the possible presence of volatile organic constituents (VOCs). Remedial investigations did not detect either VOCs or biological agents. (RRR)